

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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/029 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:GDESANTILLANA/KAR  
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EB/OFPPFD:SJOHNSON (SUBS)  
USDA/OGSM:JKEEFER (PHONE)  
ARA/ECP:LPETERS (INFO)  
AID/LA/CAR:WRHODES

-----212359Z 030778 /66

P 212241Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 062565

SANTO DOMINGO FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID,HA

SUBJECT: PL 480 TITLE I - HAITIAN REQUEST FOR AMEND-  
MENT TO FY-77 AGREEMENT

REF: (A) SANTO DOMINGO 1307 (B) PORT AU PRINCE 947

1. DEPARTMENT MARCH 18 RECEIVED FOLLOWING NOTE FROM  
HAITIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON URGENTLY REQUESTING  
AMENDMENT OF TITLE I AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE SALE OF  
10,000 MT OF RICE AND 10,000 MT OF CORN.

HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE 1976-80 ECONOMIC PLAN  
ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI IN THE AGRICULTURAL  
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SECTOR WHOSE GOAL IS SELF SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD PRODUCTION.

"THE ATTAINMENT OF THIS GOAL HAS BECOME AN URGENT  
NECESSITY AS THE HAITIAN POPULATION IS GROWING AT A  
FAST PACE REQUIRING ADDITIONAL EFFORTS IN THAT FIELD.

"TO COPE WITH AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES, THE

HAITIAN GOVERNMENT HAS REQUESTED AND RECEIVED THE COOPERATION OF MANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS (IBD, WORLD BANK, IICA) AS WELL AS THE ASSISTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE U.S.A.(AID).

"IN THAT PERSPECTIVE, THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI HAS REQUESTED AND RECEIVED LAST YEAR A FIVE MILLION DOLLAR LOAN FROM INTERAMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK TO IMPLEMENT A PROJECT FOR REGENERATION OF THE IRRIGATION SYSTEM AND RICE PRODUCTION IN THE ARTIBONITE VALLEY.

"SIMILARLY, THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI HAS BEEN PARTICIPING IN THE PL 480 PROGRAM OF THE GOVERNMENT OF U.S.A. DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS. BY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE SELLING ON THE HAITIAN MARKET OF COMMODITIES PURCHASED WITH US FINANCING IS TO BE USED TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS PROJECTS OF FOOD PRODUCTION IN HAITI.

"WITH SUCH COOPERATION AND FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT HAD GOOD HOPE TO OBTAIN VERY SOON SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS IN ITS ENDEAVOUR.

"BUT LIKE IN MANY PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES A DROUGHT AFFECTING HAITI NORTHWEST PENINSULA THIS YEAR IS THE WORST WE EVER FACED.

"IN THE ARTIBONITE VALLEY, THE DROUGHT IS SUCH, - NOT A SINGLE DROP OF RAIN IN SIX MONTHS, THAT HALF  
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OF THE RICE CROP ESTIMATED USUALLY AT 100.000 MT IS CONSIDERED LOST.

"IN THE URBAN AREAS AND IN PORT AU PRINCE THERE IS A REAL FOOD CRISIS BEARING MAINLY ON RICE AND CORN WHICH ARE STAPLES OF THE HAITIAN DIET.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IMPORTING RICE SINCE LAST OCTOBER FROM U.S. PRODUCERS AT A RATE OF 2.000 MT A MONTH. IN THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, THE IMPORTS WERE RESPECTIVELY 6,000 AND 8,000 MT. THE INCREASING IMPORTS HAVE NOT ALLEVIATED THE FOOD CRISIS.

"THEREFORE THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI IS REQUESTING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY AN AMENDMENT TO THE PL480 - HAITIAN AMERICAN AGREEMENT OF NOVEMBER 1976 TO INCLUDE THE PURCHASE OF - 10,000 MT. OF RICE AND 10,000 MT OF CORN.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT SUCH A PURCHASE WITH THE IMPORTS  
IN PROCESS WILL ALLEVIATE THE FOOD CRISIS UNTIL BETTER  
CROP PRODUCTION CAN BE OBTAINED LATER IN THE YEAR  
IN THE ARTIBONITE VALLEY AND OTHER PARTS OF THE  
COUNTRY AND UNTIL THE RESULTS FROM MANY AGRICULTURAL

PROJECTS IN IMPLEMENTATION STAGE IN VARIOUS PARTS  
OF THE COUNTRY CAN BE ACHIEVED.

"THE EMBASSY OF HAITI WANTS TO THANK THE HONORABLE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR THE KIND AND URGENT CON-  
SIDERATION IT WILL RESERVE TO THIS COMMUNICATION."  
END QUOTE.

2. FOR PORT AU PRINCE: DEPARTMENT WOULD  
APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON GOH REQUEST AND  
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JUSTIFICATION.

3. IF EMBASSY ENDORSES REQUEST, IN VIEW APPARENT  
URGENCY YOU SHOULD BEGIN DEVELOPING SUPPORTING  
DATA NEEDED: SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION TABLE  
(INCLUDING STOCKS, PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, AND  
TRADE); AND TRADE TABLE (INCLUDING IMPORTS BY  
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, TOTAL, COMMERCIAL, AND CON-  
CESSIONAL). DATA SHOULD BE FOR FISCAL YEARS  
1971-76, WITH ESTIMATES FOR 1977.

4. FYI. AMBASSADOR SALOMON HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH  
USDA, AND INFORMS US HE HAS ASKED HAITIAN MINISTRY OF  
COMMERCE TO COLLECT NEEDED DATA ASAP. END FYI.

5. REPLY AND SUPPORTING DATA REQUESTED BY CABLE  
NLT MARCH 31.

6. FOR SANTO DOMINGO: IN VIEW SHORT TIME FRAME  
INVOLVED, WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR AGATT TO TRAVEL  
TO PORT AU PRINCE EARLIER THAN MARCH 28?  
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## Message Attributes

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**To:** PORT AU PRINCE SANTO DOMINGO  
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